

LESSON 15

The Works of the Holy Spirit - II In the Church age

Objective : To be filled with the Holy Spirit and bears its fruits and gifts.

Bible Portion : Act. 2:1-47

Memory Verse : Act. 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Introduction

Do you ever think why many failed in Christian life? Do you have the power to proclaim the gospel to non-believers? Did the apostles hide themselves from Jews out of fear after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? (Jn. 20:19). When would they challenge the Jews that the Christ whom they had crucified become the Lord and Christ? Did they challenge the Jews after receiving the Holy Spirit? The secret of the spiritual success, courage and strength is the Holy Spirit. Let us learn how the redeemed ones get spirit filled by the works of the Holy Spirit.

I. Works in Sinners

1. Either the world or the sinners those who are not saved, are unable to receive or understand the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:17). Many fail to recognize the works of the Holy Spirit because of this reason.
2. The Holy Spirit makes the world conscious of sin, justice and judgement (Jn. 16:8-9). They cannot be saved because they do not follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit; through they are conscious of their sinful nature.
3. The Holy Spirit calls the sinners to the Lord and warned the people not to harden their hearts (Heb. 3:7-11).
4. The Holy Spirit witnesses the truth that Jesus Christ saves the sinners and solve all their problems (Act. 5:30-33, Heb. 2:3-4)
5. The Holy Spirit works with the word so that it touches the hearts of the people. The preacher who is filled with the Holy Spirit preaches with the power of God (Rom. 1:16, 1 Cori. 2:4-5, 1 Thess. 1:5).
6. When one is touched by the word of God, the Holy Spirit also works in him, and it leads that person to repentance. Repentance is possible through water, spirit and the word (Jn. 3:5, Tit. 3:5). He gets justified and receives the son-hood and deliverance from the bandage of sin.

II. Works in Believers

We call a person saved when he receives justification and repentance through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8). But he has to be

transformed into the likeness of God by the nurturing of the word of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit and with the increasing glory. Let us examine the key role played by the Holy Spirit in the process of one's transformation.

1. Holy Spirit frees a person from the law of death and sin

When a person receives Jesus Christ as personal savior, the Holy Spirit gives him a new life. He becomes a new creation. It is called the new birth (Jn. 5-6, 2 Cori. 5:17, 1 Cori. 5:11). The next work of the Holy Spirit is to deliver the new creation from sin and death. It is described in detail in Rom. 8:1-17. When a man gets ready for travelling in an aero plane, he cannot travel in the air because he is under the law of gravitational force. But the plain takes him high into the air, though he is under the law of gravitational force, it does not affect him. In such a way, when we filled with Christ in us, it helps us to be away from the realm of world and sin with the law of spirit in us. Thus sin has no authority over us. Then we behave according to the spirit. That means 'I' die and Christ lives in us. There must be a move from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. In Romans 8th chapter, the term 'Spirit' is used 21 times for the term 'I' used in 7th chapter. Our duty is to submit our selfish desires fully. Then God will fill us with his spirit and make us free from the sin and the self.

2. It empowers us (Eph. 3:16, Act. 1:8)

The disciples were weak and tired after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Jn. 20:19, 21:3). They did not have the courage to fulfill the command of Jesus. i.e., "And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning" (Jn. 15:27). So, before ascending to heaven, Jesus strengthened the disciples; when you receive the power of the Holy Spirit, you will witness me in Jerusalem, all in Judea, in Samaria and to the uttermost part of the world (Act. 1:8). Holy Spirit is the source of power. Here the Greek root for power is "Dunamis". It means Dynamite which breaks the heavy rocks. Every child of God receives the Holy Spirit in a certain measurement at the time of new birth. But the fulfillment happens at the time of baptism in the spirit. Apostles were fully believed in Jesus, got baptized and followed Jesus by leaving everything (Mt. 16:16, 19:27-28, Act. 1:5). But they need to be baptized

in the Holy Spirit to receive power. In water baptism, we are unified with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At the time of baptism in spirit, we are unified with His power. Christianity is the way of power. The Holy Spirit inherent in the gospel delivers people from sin, sickness, demons and fear. This power had been revealed in the early church through Apostles and ordinary men (Act. 4:12-16, Act. 8, 11:19-21). The power of the Holy Spirit is sufficient today (Is. 59:1-2). God pleased us by filling the power in jars of clay (2 Cori. 4:7) why it has been given?

a) To witness Jesus Christ (Act 1:8; Jn. 15:26-27)

The churches were prevalent in the first century itself because Stephen, Peter and Paul were filled with the power of Holy Spirit and witnessed Jesus Christ. Do you submit yourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit and witness Jesus like apostles in first century? God needs powerful witnesses.

b) To overcome obstacles

The children of God have obstacles in the world. We need the power of Holy Spirit so that we see the obstacles meaningless and powerless. The Holy Spirit counsels and empowers us. It is a great experience (Jn.14:16, 16:13, 14:26, 2 Cori. 4:7-12). The power of the Holy Spirit which strengthened Paul in his sufferings is still with us.

c) To defeat the enemy

The children of God are in a battle field. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood. We do not count any men from the world as enemies. Our fight is against the powers of dark world (Eph. 6:12-13). In this battle, the Holy Spirit gives us sufficient power (Eph. 6:13-18).

d) To pray and worship

Rom. 8:26-27, Eph. 5:18-20, Jude 20, Eph. 6:18, Phil. 3:3

A child of God prays and worships the Lord with the power of the Holy Spirit. Are you able to pray and worship in the spirit? If not so, it is the leaking of the power. Find the reason, and have access to the Holy Spirit, the source of power.

e) To bear good fruits

Gal. 5:22-23, Rev. 21:1-2, Ez. 47:12

God redeems us through Jesus Christ to bear fruits which are good and acceptable to God (Jn. 15:8, 16). The river of life we see in the book of Ezekiel and Revelation shows the flowing by the trees which stay near the river. The Holy Spirit empowers us to bear the fruits in the form of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The love of God is given to our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:6).

III. Other works of Holy Spirit in Believers

- a. It confirms us that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16)
- b. It leads to every truth (Jn. 16:13)
- c. It remembers us what Jesus said (Jn. 14:26)
- d. It reveals and understands the matters of God (1 Cori. 2:9-14)
- e. It appoints the children of God for specific purposes. Paul and Bernabas were called and appointed by the Holy Spirit (Act 13:2-4)
- f. It guides us in our daily activities, especially in matters of little interest (Act. 8:29, 16:6-7)
- g. It makes alive our mortal bodies (Rom. 8:10-11)
- h. It gives the gifts of grace individually and church as a whole (1 Cori. 12)

Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit work in the non-believers in church age?
2. How does the Holy Spirit lead a person into new birth ?
3. Explain the process which Holy Spirit delivers a person from the law of sin and death ?
4. Why the Holy Spirit empower us? Explain.
5. How the Holy Spirit works in believers? Explain each statement with verses ?
6. Have you filled with the baptism in Holy Spirit? If so, what are the works of the Holy Spirit you experience?